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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND, THE UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 1997 annual session

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DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
AT ITS ANNUAL SESSION, 2-6 JUNE 1997

1997/14	Greeting Card and related Operations work plan and proposed budget for the eight-month period 1 May to 31 December 1997
1997/15	Greeting Card and related Operations financial report and statements for the year ended 30 April 1996
1997/16	Report on the meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education
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1997/14. Greeting Card and related Operations work plan and proposed budget for the eight-month period 1 May to 31 December 1997

A. Greeting Card and related Operations (GCO) budgeted expenditures for the 1997 season

The Executive Board

1. Approves for the fiscal period 1 May to 31 December 1997 budgeted expenditures of $85.3 million as detailed below and summarized in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8:

	(In millions of United States dollars)
Director's Office	0.3
Product Line and Marketing	55.2
Private Sector Fund-raising	7.9
Operations and Finance	9.8
Subtotal	73.2
Non-operating expenses:	
Market Development Programme (MDP)	3.0
Fund-raising Development Programme (FDP)	7.8
GCO share in UNICEF administrative costs	0.6
Central and Eastern European National Committee's Development Programme	0.7
Subtotal	12.1
Total expenditures, consolidated*	85.3

2. Authorizes the Executive Director:

(a) To incur expenditures as summarized in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8 and to increase the expenditures up to the level indicated in column III of annex I to the same document, should the apparent net proceeds from product sales and/or private sector fund-raising increase to the levels indicated in column III of annex I, and, accordingly, to reduce expenditures below the level indicated in column II to the extent necessary, should the net proceeds decrease;

* For details, see E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8, table 2.

(b) To transfer funds when necessary between the various budgets as detailed above;

(c) To spend an additional amount between Executive Board sessions, when necessary, owing to currency fluctuations, to ensure the continued operation of GCO.

B. Budgeted income for the 1997 season

The Executive Board

Notes that for the fiscal period 1 May to 31 December 1997, GCO net proceeds are budgeted at $259.9 million as shown in column II of annex I to document E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8.

C. Policy issues

The Executive Board

1. Approves the changes in posts with a net decrease of nine posts as indicated in annexes IV and VI of document E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8;

2. Renews MDP with $3.0 million established for 1997;

3. Renews FDP with $7.8 million established for 1997;

4. Renews the Central and Eastern European National Committees Development Programme, which includes 10 countries, with a budget of $0.7 million established for 1997;

5. Authorizes the Executive Director to incur expenditures in the 1997 fiscal period related to cost of goods delivered (production/purchase of raw materials, cards and other products) for the 1998 fiscal year up to $42.3 million as indicated in the GCO medium-term plan (see table 8 of document E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.8).

Annual session
5 June 1997

1997/15. Greeting Card and related Operations financial report and statements for the year ended 30 April 1996

The Executive Board

Takes note of the Greeting Card and related Operations financial report and statements for the year ended 30 April 1996 (E/ICEF/1997/AB/L.9).

Annual session
5 June 1997

1997/16. Report on the meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization/UNICEF Joint Committee on Education on its sixth meeting held in Bucharest, Romania, on 5 and 6 May 1997 (E/ICEF/1997/18) and the recommendations contained therein.

Annual session
5 June 1997

1997/17. Report on the meeting of the UNICEF/WHO Joint Committee on Health Policy

The Executive Board

Takes note of the report of the UNICEF/World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Committee on Health Policy on its thirty-first session held at WHO Headquarters in Geneva on 19 and 20 May 1997 (E/ICEF/1997/19) and the recommendations contained therein.

Annual session
5 June 1997

1997/18. Modified system for allocation of general resources for programmes

The Executive Board

1. Commends the secretariat for its implementation of decision 1996/34 (E/ICEF/1996/12/Rev.1) on the allocation of general resources and the work undertaken in close consultation with the Executive Board in revising the current general resources allocation system;

2. Stresses its determination to give higher priority to the needs of children in low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs) and those of sub-Saharan Africa, in line with General Assembly resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996 on Progress at mid-decade on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children, and with relevant decisions of the Executive Board and the UNICEF Mission Statement, and recalls particularly, in this context, paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of resolution 51/186 on the need for a substantial increase in resources, while re-emphasizing the importance and urgent need to increase the general resources for UNICEF;

3. Reaffirms the principles of eligibility of all recipient countries on the basis of the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations development system, in line with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. Takes note of the modified system for the allocation of general resources available for programmes, as described in document E/ICEF/1997/P/L.17;

5. Endorses the modified system for allocation of general resources as outlined in the annex to the present decision and requests the Executive Director to implement it accordingly;

6. Stresses the need to monitor thoroughly the impact of the modified system on situations of children in countries near or above graduation levels;

7. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on the implementation of the present decision, particularly on the use of the 7 per cent set aside for flexibility, on a regular basis in her annual report, as well as at any critical junction during the implementation;

8. Decides to review in 2003 and taking into account the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly in 2001 decided in paragraph 27 of above-mentioned resolution 51/186, the modified system for allocation of general resources in order to improve its different components for its continuation, inter alia with the aim of increasing substantially the allocation of general resources to the LDCs and to sub-Saharan Africa, and requests the Executive Director to provide the Executive Board with a comprehensive report to this end.

Annex

ALLOCATION OF GENERAL RESOURCES WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MODIFIED SYSTEM, BEGINNING IN 1999

I. GENERAL RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMMES

1. The general resources for programmes are defined as the direct input to achieve the objectives of a specific programme or project for development cooperation available within the "regular resources" (cf. harmonization of budgets) of UNICEF. The modified system for the allocation of general resources applies only to this portion of the "regular resources", thus not to those for the support budget or to supplementary funds ("other resources"). For example, in 1996, the general resources available for programmes amounted to $317 million as compared to support budget resources of $246 million or supplementary funds of $545 million.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MODIFIED SYSTEM FOR ALLOCATION OF GENERAL RESOURCES

2. The modified system continues to be based on the three existing core criteria - under-five mortality rate (U5MR), gross national product (GNP) per capita and child population - and aims at:

(a) Giving progressively higher priority to the children of low-income countries, in particular the LDCs and those of sub-Saharan Africa;

(b) Ensuring the continued use of the moral authority of UNICEF to advocate for children's rights and needs as well as ensuring high-quality policy and advice;

(c) Allocating general resources sufficient to strengthen the effective implementation of programmes in the respective countries;

(d) Accommodating evolving needs and special circumstances of children through an appropriate degree of flexibility.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALLOCATION OF GENERAL RESOURCES

A. Main features of the allocation

3. The main features of the allocations are as follows:

(a) At least two thirds of general resources for programmes will be allocated on the basis of the three core criteria (U5MR; GNP per capita; child population);

(b) Each country with a UNICEF country programme shall receive an allocation on the basis of the three core criteria, using the existing formula and refined weighting system given in annex I of document E/ICEF/1997/P/L.17;

(c) Each country with a UNICEF country programme shall receive a minimum allocation of $600,000 for core programming. This amount will be maintained when general resources levels increase or remain constant. If general resources levels decrease, the minimum allocation shall be reduced by the same proportion;

(d) The minimum allocation will be used exclusively for programme assistance, the support budget costs being covered by other resources beyond the minimum allocation;

(e) No LDC is to receive an allocation below its calculated level under the current system;

(f) Abrupt changes in country allocations shall be avoided by limiting them to a maximum of 10 per cent compared with the previous year's level;

(g) Countries having reached a combined threshold of GNP per capita above $2,895 and a U5MR of less than 30 per 1,000 live births shall gradually be phased out of the allocation of general resources for programme assistance, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) below;

(h) Countries covered by the three multi-country programmes shall continue to receive a combined lump sum sufficient for viable and effective programme intervention;

(i) Special programmes shall continue to be funded from general resources as approved by the Executive Board;

(j) Seven per cent of the general resources for programmes will be set aside to respond flexibly to the great diversity in country situations as well as to evolving needs and special circumstances;

(k) The bulk of the net income from the sale of greeting cards and other products in developing countries shall continue to be allocated to the country of origin to finance Executive Board-approved unfunded supplementary-funded programmes;

(l) The estimated non-reimbursed year-end balance of the Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) will be allocated to individual countries on a case-by-case basis, charged against general resources set aside for this purpose.

B. Utilization of the 7 per cent set aside for flexibility

4. Allocations out of this portion of the general resources for programmes are to be decided upon by the Executive Director, aiming at:

(a) Encouraging excellence in performance;

(b) Responding to emerging opportunities to benefit children;

(c) Cushioning the impact of shortfalls in the estimated general resources available for programmes on country allocations;

(d) Reducing imbalances between general resources and supplementary funds for Executive Board-approved country programmes. In cases of competition between similar situations in different countries for the set-aside resources available, priority shall be given to the needs of low-income countries, particularly LDCs;

(e) Avoiding sudden changes in the level of general resource allocations to individual countries resulting from the implementation of the modified system.

C. Modalities for implementation of the modified system

5. The modalities for implementation are as follows:

(a) The gradual implementation of the modified system shall begin in 1999;

(b) The Executive Director shall monitor closely and evaluate the implementation and the impact of the modified system on the lives of children in all programme countries, particularly the situation of children in countries reaching the combined threshold of GNP per capita of $2,895 and of U5MR of 30 per 1,000 live births. The Executive Director shall enter an open dialogue with countries near or above graduation level with the aim of examining possibilities for compensating general resources from UNICEF with resources from Government (e.g., cost-sharing of continued UNICEF activities) or other sources (e.g., supplementary funding);

(c) The Executive Director shall report to the Executive Board on the implementation of the modified system, particularly on the use of the 7 per cent set aside for flexibility, on a regular basis in her annual report, as well as at any critical junction when she deems it appropriate to draw the Executive Board's early attention to difficulties encountered or envisaged during the implementation. In any case, each annual report shall contain a specific annex (e.g., charts comparing percentages of shares really disbursed per regions and country categories with share targets set) assessing the evolution of and the experience with the modified system during the past period of implementation;

(d) The modified system for the allocation of general resources shall be reviewed by the Executive Board in 2003 in order either to assess its accuracy or adjust it to unexpected needs emerging during the first years of its implementation, and in any case to improve it in view of its continuation. To this purpose, the Executive Director will provide a comprehensive report on the progress made and the experience with the implementation of the modified system and on proposals for improvements, inter alia, ways and means to allocate 60 per cent of general resources to the LDCs and 50 per cent to sub-Saharan Africa.

Annual session
6 June 1997

1997/19. Ensuring children's rights to survival, development and protection in Africa

The Executive Board

1. Recalls its decision 1995/18 (E/ICEF/1995/9/Rev.1), mindful of the UNICEF commitment to Africa as the region of greatest need and highest priority;

2. Acknowledges that the condition of children in a number of African countries remains critical due to socio-economic factors, man-made and natural disasters, violence and exploitation, as well as demographic growth and the scourge of HIV/AIDS;

3. Takes note of the progress report submitted by the Executive Director on ensuring children's rights to survival, protection and development in Africa (E/ICEF/1997/15), as well as the Executive Director's report on follow-up to the World Summit for Children (E/ICEF/1997/14), which indicate that although several African countries have made significant progress towards the World Summit goals, overall achievement is much slower than in other regions, especially in the areas of maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, basic education and sanitation;

4. Recognizes that in the current African context, the achievement of World Summit goals still constitutes a major challenge for most countries and urges the Executive Director to advocate for additional resources from both private and public sources for programmes in Africa to support efforts to accelerate the achievement of these goals as essential steps towards the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

5. Calls upon the Executive Director to continue to work with African Governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase capacity in integrated health services using the Bamako Initiative approach; to expand efforts for the control and elimination of malaria; to improve the accessibility and quality of primary education, particularly for girls; to strengthen nutrition; and to accelerate progress in water supply and sanitation;

6. Urges the Executive Director:

(a) To expand UNICEF support for African children in need of special protection, including those in situations of armed conflict;

(b) To work in all sectors and with all its partners, particularly the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, to build African capacity to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS;

7. Recognizes the importance of the role of UNICEF in the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, which will enhance the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa, and calls upon the Executive Director to ensure that UNICEF continues to play an active role in the inter-agency work to implement the Initiative;

8. Calls upon UNICEF to continue working with Governments and donors to promote the reallocation of national resources in favour of social sectors along the lines of the 20/20 Initiative;

9. Urges the Executive Director to continue to advocate for measures that reduce the official debt burden of African countries, including debt cancellation and debt conversion for social investment;

10. Requests the Executive Director to report on progress made in the implementation of the current decision on ensuring children's rights to survival, development and protection in Africa at the annual session of the Executive Board in 1999.

Annual session
6 June 1997

1997/20. Follow-up to the World Summit for Children

The Executive Board

1. Notes with appreciation the progress made towards the mid-decade goals established by the World Summit for Children;

2. Recognizes that the Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a framework to ensure that all children's social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights, are guaranteed, and that achieving the Summit goals will be a major step towards ensuring all the basic rights of children;

3. Recognizes the enormous challenges ahead to meet the end-decade goals, especially in the areas of health, with a focus on under-five and maternal mortality, malnutrition, basic education and water and sanitation, and requests UNICEF to give due consideration to children requiring special protection measures, such as those affected by child labour, sexual exploitation and disabilities;

4. Urges all Governments, the international community, the private sector, NGOs and other actors in civil society, the media and communities to reaffirm their commitment to children, and to allocate to the maximum extent additional human and financial resources to support the achievement of the Summit goals for the year 2000;

5. Requests the Executive Director to work with Governments to strengthen further national capacities for the collection and use of data, including data disaggregated by gender and age, to identify appropriate indicators that are relevant, comparable and timely to monitor progress towards the realization of children's rights and the World Summit goals, developing core indicators that will enable comparison between countries and additional indicators to reflect the country's reality;

6. Further urges all Governments to adopt appropriate strategies to ensure that the rights of all children are guaranteed, in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, by strengthening where necessary their national and subnational programmes of action, and in this connection, invites UNICEF to continue its cooperation with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in facilitating a national implementation and monitoring process of the Convention, as well as its reporting system;

7. Requests the Executive Director to support the Secretary-General in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/186 of 16 December 1996;

8. Also requests the Executive Director to take necessary action, as part of the country programme process, and in close cooperation with other agencies and bilateral donors, to advocate for and support efforts by national Governments and other relevant actors in civil society to achieve the Summit goals within the framework of national and subnational programmes of action;

9. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board at its 1998 annual session on the steps taken to implement the strategy for improved nutrition of children and women in developing countries, taking into account the updated summary of progress at mid-decade, the major challenges that remain in this area for the fulfilment of the goals for the year 2000 and the need to develop a more integrated and cross-sectoral approach;

10. Further requests the Executive Director to report to the Executive Board on the implementation of the present decision at the 1998 annual session.

Annual session
6 June 1997

1997/21. Implementation of UNICEF policies and strategies on children in need of special protection measures

The Executive Board,

Having reviewed the report on "Implementation of UNICEF policies and strategies on children in need of special protection measures" (E/ICEF/1997/16),

1. Endorses the overall approach for implementing the policy on children in need of special protection measures as contained in the report, taking into account the comments made by delegations at the present session, in particular with regard to the need of priority-setting, the definition and adaptation of implementation mechanisms, its financial implications as well as criteria and mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation;

2. Requests the Executive Director to submit an oral report and an accompanying conference room paper outlining progress on the above-mentioned items, including a time-frame for future action, to the Board at its 1998 annual session.

Annual session
6 June 1997